of Urban Development "Synthesis Study of Public Financial Management and Accountability (PFMA) in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)". The main recommendations of the study *inter-alia* includes improving ULB budget preparation, development of model accounting rules and manuals, review and strengthening of ULB audit, capacity building, improvement in procurement performance, introduction of public finance management report card, revision of outdated staffing practices, strengthening of mechanism to ensure legislative compliance and improvement in public oversight.

(b) Government of India has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) which envisages an assistance of Rs. 50,000.00 crore over the Mission period of 7 years (2005-12). The provision is aimed at providing support to ULBs for implementation of projects and reforms. State Government and ULBs concerned are also supposed to make suitable budgetary provisions as their matching share according to Additional Central Assistance sanctioned.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Foreign companies buying land

2307. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of foreign companies are buying land through builders at various parts of the country, particularly around metropolitan cities and border areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government has taken any cautious approach towards land grabbing by foreign companies, particularly some important and sensitive areas of border;

(d) whether it is also a fact that huge lands have been purchased unlawfully by some companies in Badmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir. Government of India in this Ministry is not aware of any such specific instances since Land is a State Subject.

(b) to (e) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Constructing of a new HQ for MEA by CPWD

2308. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to award the work of designing and constructing the new headquarters (HQ) for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to the CPWD;

(b) whether the CPWD has the track record and acquired professional skill in the design and construction of a monumental structure in the Lutyens' Delhi's most hallowed architectural zone;

(c) whether Government has totally abandoned the process of selection of a suitable